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26 October 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, CA Staff

SUBJECT: Status of Abel Case

25X1 1. As requested, I have discussed with [] the present status of the Abel case, particularly insofar as there might be any relationship with the Powers case. You are already aware that the State Department had turned down various suggestions for action to be taken before or during the Powers trial and the return of his family to the States.

25X1 2. Since that time, State had approved a suggestion that an individual representing the FBI meet with Abel and advise him that if any member of his immediate family (wife or daughter) would like to visit him, that the U. S. Government is prepared to issue a visa to them provided that they present themselves in the Embassy in Moscow with a valid Soviet passport. An East German passport would not be acceptable. Even outweighing the propaganda advantages to be gained by proving Abel to be a Soviet citizen, [] considered that it might be even more valuable from the CI point of view in that the person who made the approach to Abel should try to establish a continuing relationship and rapport which might, in time, lead him to break down and talk.

25X1 3. Mr. Hoover has turned down this proposal at this time but without ruling out the possibility that such an approach might be made at some future time. Obviously, the political implications at election time are involved. [] believes that such an approach if made should be between election day and January 20th in order not to bind the hands of the incoming president.

25X1 4. Apparently, consideration is also being given to proposing to the Soviets, a Powers - Abel swap. Ideally, we would gain the most from this if it were to take place after Abel had broken down and talked, but both General Cabell and [] believe that the value to be gained from Powers' release and ascertaining just what did happen

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and just how much he talked is so important that they would unhesitatingly recommend an even-up swap today if it were possible.

5. It seems to me that no matter what does eventually happen, there will be a considerable CA interest and it might be a good idea to keep a tickler file on the Abel case and to check at least once a month with [] as to any new developments that may arise.

[]

Chief, Paramilitary Group
Covert Action Staff

CA/C/[]
Orig & 1 - C/CA w/l att
2 - C/[]

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AREA OR COUNTRY(S)	ORGANIZATION	FUNCTIONS & TOPICS	PERSONALITIES	DOCUMENT
HQ	CA	CA	WALL, Rudolf	DATE: 26 Oct. 1960
	CI	PM	POWERS, Gary	
	FBI			
	State			
				CLASS.: NONE
				NO. 1
IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENT (author, form, addresses, title & length) 25X1 Memo from [redacted] to C/CA. Subject: Status of Abel Case (2 pages)				LOCATION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HS/C&G-1754

ABSTRACT

Discussion of advantages from CI and CA Viewpoints of trying to arrange an Abel-Powers swap. Recommends monthly examination of advisability of reopening consideration.

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